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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A cetane improver, the cetane improver comprising a non-oxygenated β -carotene.
2. (Original) The cetane improver of Claim 1, further comprising an alkyl nitrate.
3. (Original) The cetane improver of Claim 2, wherein the alkyl nitrate comprises 2-ethylhexyl nitrate.
4. (Original) The cetane improver of claim 1, further comprising a diluent.
5. (Original) The cetane improver of claim 4, wherein the diluent comprises toluene.
6. (Original) The cetane improver of claim 2, comprising about 3 g β -carotene per 3785 ml of cetane improver and about 946 ml of alkyl nitrate per 3785 ml of cetane improver.
7. (Original) The cetane improver of claim 6, wherein the alkyl nitrate comprises 2-ethylhexyl nitrate.
8. (Original) A diesel fuel, the diesel fuel comprising a base fuel and a cetane improver, the cetane improver comprising non-oxygenated β -carotene and an alkyl nitrate.
9. (Original) The diesel fuel of claim 8, wherein the alkyl nitrate comprises 2-ethylhexyl nitrate.
10. (Original) The diesel fuel of claim 8, wherein the diesel fuel comprises from about 0.00008 g to about 0.028 g β -carotene per 3785 ml of the diesel fuel and from about 0.025 g to about 8.7 g alkyl nitrate per 3785 ml of the diesel fuel.
11. (Original) The diesel fuel of claim 8, wherein the diesel fuel comprises from about 0.00024 g to about 0.024 g β -carotene per 3785 ml of the diesel fuel and from about 0.075 g to about 7.5 g alkyl nitrate per 3785 ml of the diesel fuel.
12. (Original) The diesel fuel of claim 8, wherein the diesel fuel comprises from about 0.0004 g to about 0.020 g β -carotene per 3785 ml of the diesel fuel and from about 0.12 g to about 6.2 g alkyl nitrate per 3785 ml of the diesel fuel.